

are now engaged in prestigious and rewarding careers in diverse fields including law, business, politics, communications and education. In addition, all who have come to know him have enjoyed his delightful sense of humor and his talent as a most entertaining storyteller. He founded storywise.com, the Center for Narrative Studies, here in Washington and has shared his insight with audiences nationally and internationally.

On Friday, February 29, friends, supporters and alums from the Washington-Ireland Program will come together to toast Paul Costello for 10 years of remarkable success. I know my colleagues here in Congress join me in expressing appreciation for his service and in wishing him all the best for the future.

TRIBUTE TO CORONA CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR BECKY GUNNOE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California, are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Becky Gunnoe is one of these individuals. On January 19, 2008, Becky received the city of Corona's top honor when the Corona Chamber of Commerce named her Citizen of the Year for 2007 at the organization's 93rd annual awards and installation dinner at the Eagle Glen Golf Club.

Becky Gunnoe exemplifies the word "volunteer." For more than 20 years, Becky has touched the lives of many people through her volunteer work in many programs and services in Corona. As a founding member in 1996, Becky was the catalyst for the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) coming to Corona, including funding, training, and attracting volunteers. TIP is a group of specially trained citizen volunteers who provide "emotional first aid" to victims of traumatic events and their families in the first few hours following a tragedy. The volunteers are called to a crisis scene or to a local hospital by authorized police officers, firefighters or hospital personnel. Now in its 11th successful year, the program has a close working relationship with all the local emergency agencies because of Becky's continued efforts. She is responsible for training not only the volunteers, but also the emergency personnel.

Becky has also served on the Corona Fire Safety Foundation Board, CFSF, for the past 5 years, and currently is its president. She has also been with the Community Police Community Partnership, CPCP, since October 1997 and served as president from 1999 to 2001. A joint fundraiser of these two organizations called the Great Taste has enabled these partnerships between the community and the city to enhance and expand public safety for the benefit of residents.

Becky was one of the first volunteers trained and has been a trainer for the past five years for the City of Corona Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team program,

CERT, which supplements city resources in the event of a disaster or other major emergency. CERT volunteers are trained in emergency procedures and are duly registered as disaster service workers in accordance with the California Government Code and the City of Corona Municipal Code. Becky has also been actively involved with the Advisory Board of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, ADV, and the Coalition of Family Preservation for almost 10 years. She has also served on the Riverside County Board of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, ADV, for 2 years and served as president in 2005. In addition to all her community activities, Becky also takes care of her husband, Dr. Charles E. Gunnoe, a former Chamber president and winner of the Citizen of the Year award in 1997.

In light of all Becky Gunnoe has done for the community of Corona, the City of Corona named Becky their Citizen of the Year. Becky's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZING VERNA WEBBER

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowan Verna Webber on the celebration of her 105th birthday today.

Verna was born on February 27, 1903 in the Ames, Iowa area. She grew up with seven siblings. Verna married Henry Albert Webber, who was a professor at Iowa State University. They happily had three children, Marjorie, Richard, and Don. Verna currently lives at the Riverside Manor in Ames. She remains in excellent health, and I am told from a good source that she can kick higher than any other resident during morning exercises. Verna spends her days with her daughter, Marjorie, who lives along with her at Riverside, where they can be seen attached at the hip.

There have been many changes that have occurred since Verna was born. We have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, communism, and the birth of new democracies. Verna has lived to see the leadership of 18 United States Presidents and 24 Governors of Iowa. And, in her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I am extremely honored to represent Verna in Congress, and I know that my colleagues will join me with warm birthday wishes for continued happiness and health in her future years.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY CORPORAL  
DUNCAN CHARLES CROOKSTON

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2008*

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the courageous life and the ultimate sacrifice of Army CPL Duncan Charles Crookston. This exceptional soldier merits our recognition and esteem as his character and devotion to duty decreed that he put the needs of others before his own. Corporal Crookston possessed the virtues that define an honorable life.

Tragically, Corporal Crookston was taken from us as a result of complications arising from severe injuries received in an attack and roadside blast along one of Baghdad's deadliest roads. Three of his comrades were killed and one other was wounded when an explosively formed penetrator blasted through their vehicle. Corporal Crookston died on Friday, January 25, 2008, at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. This fine young man was only 20 years old and while many of us have been blessed to live a longer life, I believe that few of us will have lived one of such consequence in service of our Nation's cause.

Corporal Crookston was the son of Christopher and Lee Crookston. He enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from West High School in Denver, Colorado. He became an airborne infantryman and was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas. Prior to his deployment to Iraq, he married his high school sweetheart, Meaghan. Comrades in arms noted that he was very intelligent and "able to complete a Rubik's cube in under 56 seconds." He became his unit's resident expert in computers and other electronic devices. He is remembered as someone who "helped everyone out whenever they needed him" . . . (a person who was) "full of life" . . . "a kind guy (who) was very loving and selfless, one in a million . . . (a man) who was willing to give up his life for other people."

I never had the honor of meeting Corporal Crookston but it is clearly evident that he was raised by a good family to be a decent, responsible and honorable person. He loved our country and volunteered to take his place among those who put themselves in harms way because of a singular and abiding devotion to this nation. Corporal Crookston understood his obligations and, in the words of Abraham Lincoln on the battlefield at Gettysburg, he gave "his last full measure of devotion" . . . so that others may live a better life. All Americans are in his debt. His devotion to duty in the war against terrorism and his uncommon valor in the face of mortal danger leave us with a legacy of courage and honor to which very few can aspire. Among other awards including the Army Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart, the United States Army awarded Corporal Crookston the Bronze Star.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life and sacrifice of United States Army CPL Duncan Charles Crookston, a distinguished soldier. His life was exemplary and his contributions are rich in consequence. On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District of